

EDITORIALS

Sears Suit

THE CLASS ACTION SUIT recently filed by Sears Roebuck and Company against ten federal agencies scratches at the tip of what must be a huge iceberg. The scratch touches only upon the composition of the work force of one company, and the absolute impossibility of its compliance with the pertinent government laws and regulations. The iceberg consists of the plethora of laws, rules and regulations which sometimes seem almost to make a mockery of the law itself and which seem gradually to be stifling the progress and change that is so necessary if this nation is to have a position of leadership in the modern world. This iceberg has become very large, it is growing, and it already sits very deep in the national water.

In our system of government there are legislative, judicial and executive branches, each functioning at local, state and national levels. Thus there are nine major loci of power and control. The legislative branches busily pass laws, the judicial branches make case law at a more leisurely pace, and the agencies of the executive branches crank out hundreds of regulations which have the force of law. There is no real coordination of all these mechanisms. Conflicts and inconsistencies are bound to occur and the legal recourse to resolve them is cumbersome, time-consuming and inefficient at best. It may take years to resolve the Sears suit, and much, much longer to correct the serious disorder that gave rise to it.

All of this suggests that our system of laws and regulations may somehow be intrinsically ill-adapted to govern today's complex, interdependent, ever-changing social and technologic system as it is developing in this nation. As American society becomes more complex and interdependent (and it is doing this very rapidly) the need to assure some order in this system becomes more pressing. So far the response has been for government to pile law upon law and regulation upon regulation. But somehow this has not produced the desired order. Instead of oiling the machinery to make it run more smoothly and efficiently, too often the opposite has occurred. Friction has been introduced, additional and unnecessary costs have been incurred without commensurate benefit, and progress and needed

change have become ever more difficult to accomplish. While the world is moving on we seem to be legislating and regulating ourselves into relative stagnation and immobility with our multiplying, conflicting and often unworkable laws and regulations.

The solution will not be easy to find. Our regulatory efforts seem to be producing more disorder than order. If we are to maintain, or some might say regain, our position of leadership toward a better world (which we believe to be our national heritage and destiny), then it would seem that we must find ways to escape what is fast becoming legislative and regulatory chaos, and to release ourselves from those unnecessary and self-imposed legislative and regulatory bonds that are sapping our strength and to some extent even our will.

Sears Roebuck and Company is to be commended for applying a little heat to this iceberg and it is to be hoped that in time, and perhaps with more heat, the iceberg itself can be reduced to more manageable size. The health care enterprise has much at stake in all of this.

—MSMW

Does Hypophysectomy Have a Role in the Current Management of Breast Cancer?

THERAPEUTIC APPROACHES to carcinoma of the breast throughout its frequently complex course comprise a broad array of procedures and protocols for treating both the primary tumor and the many manifestations of metastatic disease. Within the last decade, cytotoxic chemotherapy has been applied as an adjuvant to primary treatment, and its success in this role is a matter of record. Concurrently, chemotherapy has been used with ever-increasing enthusiasm and effectiveness in the management of the disseminated disease. Because chemotherapy at present occupies center stage, and quite correctly so, physicians are inclined to forget the proven efficacy of irradiation and hormone therapy, including endocrine ablation, as therapeutic modalities for advanced breast cancer.

In this issue, the article by Silverberg and Britt